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## Tzipi Livni's failure to build coalition could help or hurt in new Israeli elections

By Leslie Sussner

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With Israel now headed for new general elections, supporters and opponents of Tzipi Livni are putting a very different gloss on her failure to form a governing coalition.

Opponents say Livni's inability shows she is not yet seasoned enough to lead. Supporters counter that the reasons for her failure show precisely why she is the best candidate.

Livni says that, had she been willing to give in to excessive political and budgetary demands by prospective coalition partners, she easily could have formed a government. Instead she took a stand.

The foreign minister, who won the Kadima primary in September to succeed party leader Ehud Olmert, portrays herself as a tough-

minded patriot who sacrificed the premiership to stave off demands that would have hurt Israel's national interest.

Her opponents suggest a less high-minded narrative: They say Livni bungled coalition negotiations because of a fundamental lack of experience.

Livni's coalition effort was badly hurt by the adept political maneuvering of opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, the head of the Likud Party.

Netanyahu was able to convince three of Livni's prospective coalition partners — the Sephardic Orthodox Shas Party, United Torah Judaism and the Pensioners' Party — that he probably would win in a general election campaign and would be more amenable to their political and budgetary

demands than Livni.

Netanyahu focused on Shas, the largest of the three with 12 Knesset seats. The former prime minister spoke of renewing the "historic alliance" between Likud and the right-wing Shas, declaring that, if

he won the election, Shas would be the first party he would ask to join his coalition.

Shas probably would have been a difficult nut for Livni to crack in any situation. Insiders say party leader Eli Yishai made a strategic

decision several months ago to force early elections and pre-empt a looming leadership challenge from his charismatic predecessor, Arye Deri.

Indeed, there were serious  
(Continued on page 2)

### Youngster meets the heroes of the cave



Five-year-old Liam Carrocetto was excited to hear that the Stermer family of Montreal would be coming to Ottawa to tell their story of surviving the Holocaust by hiding in a Ukrainian cave for 344 days. The boy knew of the Stermers from the book for young people, *The Secret of the Priest's Grotto: A Holocaust Survival Story*, and considers them his personal heroes. He was disappointed, though, that their presentation at the launch event of the 2008 Holocaust Education Program would take place after his 7 pm bedtime.

Learning of the young boy's interest in their story, the Stermer family readily agreed to meet Liam and his sister, Marianna, earlier in the day.

Pictured: Liam and Marianna Carrocetto with (left to right): Sima Blitzler, Sam Stermer, Bella Stermer (wife of Sam), Pearl Stermer (wife of the late Nissel Stermer), Saul Stermer, Czarna Stermer (wife of Saul) and Yetta Katz. See story on page 4.  
(Photo: Peter Walser)

## Election set for Feb 10

(JTA) — Israel's election has been set for February 10.

Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik announced October 30 that most of Israel's political parties agreed on the date.

Israel's next general election was supposed to be in 2010, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's resignation announcement in July set in a motion a chain of events leading to early elections, which will be held for the entire 120-member Knesset.

The move toward early elections came after Olmert's succes-

sor as Kadima leader, Tzipi Livni, failed to assemble a coalition government needed to govern following her election by the party in September.

Livni announced that her main rival in the primary campaign, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, would be her party's campaign chairman.

Along with Livni, the foreign minister, the main contenders for prime minister are Defense Minister Ehud Barak of Labor and Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

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## Livni now faces Netanyahu and Barak in election

(Continued from page 1)

doubts as to whether he had negotiated with Livni in good faith. Yishai made two key demands: an allocation of one billion shekels – approximately \$260 million U.S. – for child allowances; and a promise that Jerusalem would not be up for negotiation with the Palestinians. On Jerusalem, Yishai demanded that Livni actually sign a letter vowing to exclude the city from future peace talks.

Even if she had been ready to meet the budgetary demands, the written commitment on Jerusalem was out of the question.

"No American president would return a call from any Israeli prime minister who signed such a letter," Kadima negotiator Yisrael Maimon, a former Cabinet secretary, declared.

Other challenges also made it difficult for Livni to cobble together a coalition.

Such negotiations typically take place after elections, with a full four-year term looming. But, because of Olmert's resignation, Livni came in mid-term with elections no more than two years away.

The notion of spending an abridged term in the opposition was less of a deterrent for prospective coalition partners, and they consequently raised their coalition demands. Even the Pensioners' Party produced a document with some \$786 million U.S. worth of new demands.

In the end, Livni said, she had no choice but to stop the horse trading and go for early elections.

Olmert likely will stay on as the caretaker

prime minister until a new government is formed after the elections. Though he is a lame duck – and a disgraced one at that, having resigned under a cloud of corruption investigations – Olmert may press ahead with his peacemaking efforts to turn the next election into a referendum on peace.

Olmert also could step down and hand over the premiership to Livni, giving her the incumbency advantage going into the next election. Some Kadima leaders are talking openly about urging Olmert to make such a move, but Olmert has not offered any indication that he is willing to consider it.

Livni wants to hold new elections quickly. According to law, a majority in the Knesset could have coalesced around another candidate for prime minister and thereby averted the need for early elections, but President Shimon Peres announced October 27 that, after meeting with party leaders, no such possibility existed.

Livni likely will base her campaign on her squeaky-clean image in an era of political corruption and argue that, of all the candidates, only she can restore the public's confidence in its government and politics.

She will cite her failure to form a coalition as evidence of her high-principled approach, and her refusal to sign the *Jerusalem letter* with Shas as proof of her sincere commitment to peacemaking with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu will emphasize his experience, political smarts and special economic skills – he is a former finance minister – in light of



Kadima Party leader Tzipi Livni asked Israeli President Shimon Peres for new general elections in a meeting on October 26 at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.

(Photo: GPO/BPH Images)

the global financial crisis. He also will claim to be the only candidate who can be counted upon to preserve a united Jerusalem.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who was pilloried in the media for demanding special powers in his coalition talks with Livni, will stress his experience as a former prime minister as well as Labor's long leadership tradition. Labor and Kadima are facing a serious tactical dilemma: They will be competing for the same centre-left political space, but, if they attack each other too viciously, Netanyahu will be the main beneficiary.

In the latest polls, Livni is slightly ahead of Netanyahu, with Barak a very distant third. A *Yediot Achronot* poll gives Kadima 29

seats, Likud 26 and Labor 11; *Ma'ariv* has Kadima earning 31 seats, Likud 29 and Labor 11.

In the *Yediot* poll, the left-centre and right-religious blocs are tied with 60 seats each in the 120-member Knesset; *Ma'ariv* has the left-centre ahead, 61-59. The next prime minister needs a minimum of 61 seats in his or her coalition.

Both polls show that the three large secular parties – Kadima, Likud and Labor – could easily form a national unity government of 66 to 71 seats on their own.

That means Yishai, who sparked the election by refusing to join Livni's coalition, could find himself out in the cold.

## Around the Jewish world

### Choice of female rabbi makes history

(JTA) – Rabbi Julie Schonfeld was named October 29 as the new executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative movement's rabbinic group. She will succeed Rabbi Joel Meyers, who will step down July 1.

Rabbi Schonfeld is the first female rabbi to serve in the chief executive position of an American rabbinical association. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association had a

woman who was not a rabbi in its top administrative position while the Reform Central Conference of American Rabbis has had a woman rabbi as president.

A graduate of Yale University and ordained in 1997 by the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Schonfeld is currently the Rabbinical Assembly's director of rabbinic development.

### Secure playground slated for Sderot

(JTA) – A secure indoor playground is being constructed in Sderot.

The secure recreation facility, funded by donations to the Jewish National Fund, will be protected against rocket attacks from Gaza. A JNF mission dedicated the first stage of the project on October 30. The project is due to be completed in January 2009.

The facility, a former textile factory, is designed with multiple reinforced shelters that also serve as play areas that provide instant protection when entered after a 15-second advance warning of a rocket attack. An additional shelter is being constructed outside the site for children and their families waiting to get in.

With a capacity of up to 500 people, the indoor site for children is divided into two areas for different age groups. Psychologists will also be on-site with intervention for children and families in need of their services. A medical station will also be available.

About 5,000 children live in Sderot and surrounding communities.

### Schalit gets letter from family

(JTA) – Hamas said it delivered a letter to captive Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit from his family. The letter to Schalit, which was sent via French President Nicolas Sarkozy, is the first Hamas said it allowed through to Schalit, though Schalit has sent several messages since he was captured on the Gaza-Israel border in a 2006 raid.

The letter went from Schalit's father, Noam, to Sarkozy, who gave it to Qatari officials, who passed it on to Syrian officials, who gave it to Hamas leader Khaled Meshal in Damascus. Schalit also holds French citizenship.

Negotiations facilitated by Egyptian mediators have failed to yield an agreement between Hamas and Israel over the number of Palestinian prisoners Israel would exchange in return for Schalit's liberation.

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- Must submit entries by November 26th.
- Submit entries to your school office or to the Jewish federation of Ottawa office  
Attention: Lindsay Rothenberg.
- Entries MUST fall within the appropriate word count and age category to be considered eligible.
- The selection committee is the Mitzvah Day Planning committee.
- Contest winners and prizes will be announced at the Mitzvah Day Opening Ceremonies.

**GOOD LUCK!**

For more information contact Lindsay Rothenberg at (613) 798-4696 ext. 270  
or [lrothenberg@jewishottawa.com](mailto:lrothenberg@jewishottawa.com)

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# Stermer family survived the Holocaust hiding in cave

By Diane Koven

The Stermer family of Montreal holds a world record that nobody would ever aspire to.

For nearly a full year during the Second World War, the Sterners and two other families lived underground to escape the Nazi killing machine. Although the males occasionally snuck outside to hunt for food and other necessities, the women and children never once left their cave, giving them the record of living underground for 344 days in a row.

Four surviving members of the family told their story at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre at the launch of Ottawa's 2008 Holocaust Education Program on October 26.

The Sterners' story was by now familiar to many in the audience who had followed journalist Andrew Duffy's eight-part series in

the *Ottawa Citizen* last year, or who had seen them interviewed by Matt Lauer on the *Today Show* on NBC. Seeing them in person and hearing their recollections first-hand and in their own voices was, however, compelling and extremely moving for those in the packed auditorium.

Sima Blitzer, who had been a young child in the cave, introduced the audience to the many family members of the next generation who had accompanied the senior Sterners to Ottawa for the presentation.

"I am here this evening to give testimony of what happened more than 67 years ago so that Holocaust deniers cannot say that this never happened... we have to tell the story so that our children, our grandchildren and the world will know how we fought to survive," she said.

The children and grand-



Members of the Stermer family came to Ottawa to tell their story of survival at the launch of the 2008 Holocaust Education Program on October 26. Pictured (left to right) are Sima Blitzer, Saul Stermer, Yetta Katz and Sam Stermer. (Photo: Peter Walser)

children of the Sterners are productive, talented, contributing members of Canadian society; people who would not have existed had the Nazis succeeded in their goal of killing every Jew.

Though grateful for the lives they have led in Canada, the Sterners might not have had to endure their ordeal in the caves if Canada had been more welcoming to refugees. In 1938, with war looming in Poland, the family applied to immigrate to Canada to save their lives.

Canadian officials dragged their feet, taking their time to assess the family and issue travel permits. In the end, Hitler's army invaded Poland just a week before the Sterners were set to leave. Their immigration to Canada was thus delayed by several years and much hardship.

Though the ordeal was treacherous and arduous, brothers Saul and Sam regaled the audience with stories and anecdotes that made it seem like a wonderful adventure. Each of them praised their late mother's strength, courage and inge-

nuity in orchestrating the survival of 38 people in the cave.

They described the chores everyone had, including their sister, Yetta Katz, also present, who did the cooking. She is now known in the family as "the best cook in the world."

According to Blitzer, there were several 'miracles' that helped them to survive.

"One of the miracles was that nobody ever got even a cold. If one person had been sick, we would all have died. Truly, we felt it was the hand of God. It didn't just happen by itself," she said.

Toby Herscovitch, co-chair of the Shoah Committee, MCed the evening and praised the courage of the Stermer family.

"Today, there are shows like *Survivor*, but this is a real survivor story. The Stermer family was under threat of death every day and showed tremendous courage," she said.

"Thanks to their survival, there are so many bright, talented family members contributing to Canada and the communities where they live."

Duffy's *Ottawa Citizen* articles about the Sterners can be read at [tinyurl.com/5tk2xl](http://tinyurl.com/5tk2xl).



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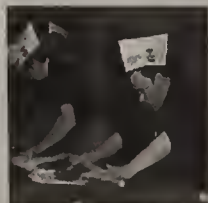
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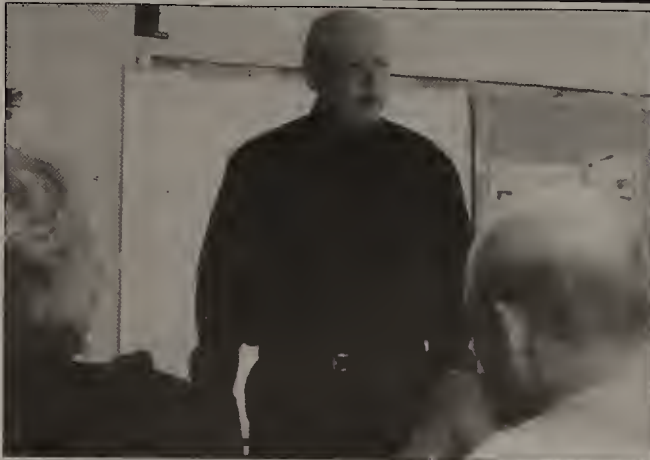
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**Great-West Life**



Stephen Scheinberg argues that some groups who claim friendship with Israel do not always have the best of intentions. (OJB Photo: Liana Shlien)

## Scheinberg: neo-con Iraq agenda was bad for Israel

By Liana Shlien

Israel today is more in need of friends than ever, but some groups and individuals who profess strong support actually harm Israel's long-term interests because their support is tied to furthering their own agendas, according to Stephen Scheinberg, national co-chair of Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN).

Scheinberg, a professor emeritus of history at Concordia University in Montreal, has studied right wing extremism and anti-Semitism, and is a former national vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) and twice chaired BBC's League for Human Rights. He was the co-editor of the 1997 book, *The Extreme Right: Freedom and Security at Risk*.

Scheinberg spoke at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on October 19. His talk, *Who are Israel's Real Friends? The Christian Right, Dubya and Other Pretenders*, was a salon event sponsored by CFPN and *Outlook* magazine.

Scheinberg began by saying that true friends are not only supportive, but also honest. He cited the approach taken by French President Nicolas Sarkozy who told Israel's Knesset in January that France is Israel's friend and will always stand by when its security or existence is threatened. Sarkozy then called for all settlement construction to stop immediately, offered European help in bringing settlers back within the 1967 borders, and said Jerusalem must be the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state.

According to Scheinberg, there are five policy positions typically adopted by conservative "friends" of Israel: expanding Jewish settlements on the West Bank; insisting that Jerusalem remain entirely under Israeli control; ignoring human rights violations within Israel; refusing to talk to enemies like Hamas; and continuing to provide financial aid to Israel that is diverted to West Bank settlements.

He said the Christian Right has befriended Israel mainly because its theology dictates the second coming of their messiah requires that all Jews return to Israel and build a Jewish theocratic state. The friendship is compromised if non-Jews control part of the ancient Land of Israel, as that would thwart their prophecy. Hence their support for Israeli rightists and settler groups, even though West Bank settlements are counterproductive for Israel, he said.

Turning from religion to politics, Scheinberg blamed "the crusading outlook of George W. Bush" and the neo-cons in his administration who pose as Israel's "true friends" for pushing the Iraq war, which, he said, was bad for Israel. According to Scheinberg, Saddam Hussein had contained Iran and his removal upset the region's balance of power "making Iran the unchallenged power in the Middle East" as it funds Hezbollah and Hamas and strengthens terrorism.

"An absolute fraud," was how Scheinberg described current Israeli-Palestinian peace discussions, which, he said, only served to corrupt the Fatah movement. "We're in a crunch situation in the next two years. The time window for the two-state solution that Peace Now has always advocated is closing."

If the two-state solution dies, said Scheinberg, only two options will remain: a one-state solution, which he called an "absolute disaster" and "impossible," or a situation he referred to as "ethnic cleansing," in which Palestinians would be transferred to Jordan.

Anticipating a victory by the Democratic candidate, Senator Barack Obama, in the American presidential election, Scheinberg said the next president's Israel policies will be conditioned by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which Obama addressed in June.

"I believe, I hope, that Barack Obama will be a real friend," Scheinberg said.

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# The magic: That's what Mitzvah Day is all about

*Editor's note: JFO Chair Jonathan Freedman has arranged to share his column, on occasion, with the chairs or presidents of the community's major beneficiary agencies or committees so they can provide some insight into their operations.*

Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah have recently come and gone. Once again, we were given the task of self-reflection, of reviewing the deeds of the past year, the good and the not-so-good, the selfless and the selfish acts that will help to guide our conscience in the year ahead.

At this time of year, many begin to plan their succor, making a conscious decision to give *tzedakah*, to volunteer time, to give more of themselves for the benefit of others. Others vow to be more cognizant of those around them and to put forth an effort, on a daily basis, to 'do good' with more spontaneous acts of kindness.

Whatever the deed, and however it comes to be, we feel compelled, as



## Federation Report

Stacey Segal  
Mitzvah Day

human beings and as Jews, to help, to give, to care.

On December 7, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa will be holding our fourth annual community-wide Mitzvah Day and I have the honour of being this year's Mitzvah Day chair.

Our committee has had a busy few months of planning. We began by contacting agencies and organizations around the city, and beyond, to find out how we might help make someone's day a little bit better, a little bit brighter, or a little bit easier.

The number of requests we received for support was overwhelming: celebration kits for children in shelters, food for

the homeless, security blankets and stuffed friends for children in crisis, and winter clothing for low-income children and youth, to name a few.

Through generous donations from Friends of Mitzvah Day, we will once again be able to help meet some of the most basic physical and emotional needs of individuals in the Ottawa community.

But Mitzvah Day isn't simply about *tzedakah*. Mitzvah Day is also about *chesed* and *rachamim*: loving kindness and compassion.

As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote, "Chesed exists only in virtue of emotion, empathy and sympathy, feeling-with and feeling-for. We act with kindness because we know what it is like to be in need of kindness."

The kindness and compassion of the Ottawa Jewish community is evidenced by the growing number of Mitzvah Day participants each year. I have no doubt that this year's numbers will surpass the last and will prove, once again, that even

the smallest hands can make a world of difference to someone in need of kindness.

My four-year-old asked for a magic wand for her last birthday. Truthfully, so did I. Sadly, neither of us received one.

I explained to her that, while there are no such things as magic wands, there is, indeed, magic within us all.

The things that we are able to do with a few simple words, with outstretched hands (small and large), with a smile or with spare change never cease to amaze me.

To me, this is what Mitzvah Day is all about – feeling good by doing good. It's addictive, it's contagious and it's absolutely magical.

My daughter will create her own magic on December 7 when she cuts off 10 inches of her hair to donate to Locks of Love.

I hope you will partake in some of the magic as we celebrate the compassion that lies within us all, because that is what Mitzvah Day is all about.

# Discarding ideological differences in the name of unification

*He became king over Jeshurun when the numbers of the nation gathered the Tribes of Israel in Unity. (Deuteronomy 33:5)*

Rashi comments that Hashem is the king of the Jews when there is unity and peace among His people. However, if there is dissension among them, then Hashem does not rule over them.

Could you imagine a Jewish community that is united? An impossible dream? What would happen if ideological differences were discarded in the name of unification with the intention of benefiting all in the Jewish community? While the model of Jewish communal life has been based on the concept of unity through diversity, too often diversity disintegrates into discord and divisiveness.

Specifically, examining the day school educational system in Ottawa's Jewish community with the intention of building it and growing it requires vision and direction for the next number of years in terms of maximum development and unity of spirit. At present, there are three different elementary day schools serving the Jewish community of Ottawa. While one is the community school, the others serve the Chabad and Haredi communities respectively, each with dwindling enrolment and rising costs.

What would happen if the two ultra-Orthodox schools merged with the combined numbers of students creating a strong, powerful, critical mass? Are the ideological issues that separate the two schools today so enormous that they overpower the commonality of teaching Torah and Halacha from an Orthodox perspective that is relegated to each? Can there not be room for designated time release instruction for ideological instruction for each of the communities represented in these schools? Think of the benefit that would accrue to this new



## From the pulpit

Rabbi  
Howard Finkelstein  
Beit Tikvah

Orthodox institution, which would have approximately 150 students with the concomitant result that classes would not have to be combined in order to make them viable. Think of the impact that a large Orthodox institution could have on our community.

In regard to the community day school, could there not develop a second stream of religious instruction that would be attractive to the modern Orthodox community which may not feel comfortable in the ultra-Orthodox schools? It is somewhat disconcerting to hear that there are modern Orthodox families that are choosing to send their children to public schools, because the day schools do not meet their religious needs. One has to wonder how the public schools can provide those religious needs for these parents.

Two streams of Judaic instruction at Hillel Academy would strengthen its student base and provide for growth in the future. To attenuate its Judaic program would serve to further weaken its attractiveness as an option for parents considering Jewish educational possibilities for their children.

By definition and by extension, the community's high schools would benefit from the strengthening of our elementary schools. The introduction of a merged Orthodox school and the creation of a new religious stream at Hillel, in addition to its present program, would send a strong message to the


community about the importance of Jewish education in Ottawa. The emphasis on strong elementary day school education would set the tone for an increased awareness of the importance of the next phase of instruction which would be high school education.

Our community high school, Yitzhak Rahin High School (YRHS), and the Ottawa Torah Institute can only benefit from the presence of strong elementary Jewish schools in Ottawa. If ultra-Orthodox families can gain from the presence of a large merged Orthodox day school, there would be no need for these people to contemplate sending their children out of town for high school education. Naturally, the new student body would gravitate to the Jewish high schools in town which would be open to all students

expressing an interest in continuing their Jewish education regardless of ideology.

The development of a strong Hillel Academy with its emphasis on two streams of Judaic instruction will prove beneficial to YRHS as the Hillel students will want to continue their Jewish education on a higher level as well. At present, high school Jewish education is seen by many as superfluous at best.

The rabbis of the Talmud warn us to anticipate the future in terms of our planning. That is the essence of wisdom. While larger Jewish population centres can afford the plethora of Jewish educational institutions, Ottawa cannot. At the end of the day, the question has to be asked when it comes to Jewish education: What is in the best interests of our students?



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# Canadian, U.S. and Israeli elections make this a fascinating time

This season has – and will continue to be – a fascinating time for those of us who are highly interested in politics.

As I write, we're about two weeks past the Canadian federal election and, in a few days, Americans will head into their voting booths. And the Israeli election date has now been set for February 10.

By the time you read this column, the results of the U.S. election will be known. If the polling data available three days before the election holds up – and I'll be highly surprised if it doesn't – Senator Barack Obama of Illinois will be the president-elect.

Obama's election will be a watershed moment in American history – a moment whose great hope and promise Obama will have to work hard to fulfil in the coming years.

The question has been raised often during the very long presidential campaign about what an Obama presidency will mean for Israel. No less an authority than *Joe the Plumber*, a man Republican candidate Senator John McCain called his "hero," was quick to agree with the poppycockish statement that "a vote for Obama is a vote for the death of Israel."

Obama has been a great friend to Israel and I've no doubt he will continue to be. His promised engagement in the Middle East peace process, from the very begin-



## Acting Editor

Michael Regenstreif

ning of his mandate – as opposed to George W. Bush, who engaged only at the tail end of his already-failed presidency – is the best hope for peace since Yitzhak Rabin's tragic assassination.

Ambassador Dennis Ross, a highly respected veteran of Middle East peace negotiations in the administrations of the first George Bush and Bill Clinton, is Obama's top adviser on Middle East issues. He will be in Ottawa on November 24 to deliver the keynote address at the Negev Dinner. It should be fascinating to hear what he has to say at this important time.

Of course, much will depend on who wins the Israeli election (and whether there will be a Palestinian leadership able to act authoritatively on behalf of its people). Will Israelis choose Kadima's Livni or Likud's Netanyahu? They have very different agendas.

And, given Israel's proportional representation system, to whom will the next Israeli prime minister be beholden when it

comes to putting together a governing coalition?

Speaking of proportional representation, it's been pointed out that, if Canada had such a system, rather than our first-past-the-post system, Parliament would look very different than it does today. The October 14 election results would have given us fewer Conservative and Bloc members and more from the Liberals and NDP. The Green Party, with nearly seven per cent of the popular vote, would have elected about 21 MPs.

Taking the logic to its limit, a party with one-third of one per cent of the vote could be entitled to an MP. Imagine all the single-interest groups who could garner one-third of one per cent of the vote. While Israeli electoral law demands that a party garner two per cent of the vote to be represented in the 120-seat Knesset, the percentage in Canada, with 308 parliamentary seats, would have to be much lower.

Having watched Israeli politics for many years, and having seen how the major Israeli parties have had to dicker for the support of narrowly focused or single-issue parties, I'd think long and hard before introducing such a system here.

\*\*\*\*\*

There have been some exciting developments recently in Ottawa's Jewish edu-

cation sector, which we began to cover with a story I wrote in our September 15 edition, featuring an interview with Donna Palmer-Dodds, the newly appointed head of both Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School (YRHS), and about the renovations to the school building being done so that YRHS and Cheder Rambam could join Hillel Academy on the Jewish Community Campus.

We're following that story up with a series of articles about those and other developments. The series is being written by Nicola Hamer, a frequent *Bulletin* contributor and Hillel Academy's new communications director. The first article appears on page 11. Watch for more over the next several issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of education, this issue's volunteer spotlight, on page 13, is about Marlene Rivier, a longtime volunteer with the Ottawa Modern Jewish School. The series of volunteer spotlights Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa Info-Centre has been writing for the *Bulletin* over the past several months has proven to be a popular feature of the paper.

Community organizations and agencies who would like to suggest volunteers for future spotlights are encouraged to contact Benita at 613-798-4644.

## Dion's promise got trumped by a deficit of political skills

On the evening of December 2, 2006, in a wide corridor of Montreal's Palais des congrès, I bumped into a political lobbyist of my acquaintance.

Both of us were trudging slowly through the middle of a large, loud and excited crowd of people, everyone leaving the main hall of the convention centre and heading out the doors toward the charms of a downtown Montreal Saturday night.

Not too much earlier, inside the main hall, Stéphane Dion stood on a confetti-laden stage, flanked by Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, two former residents of 24 Sussex Drive.

As the music blared and Dion waved to the thousands of convention delegates who had just elected him as the newest – and perhaps unlikely – leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, he had every reason to believe he would one day also live in the same house, and hold the same title of prime minister, as had the two men on either side of him.

After all, of the 10 Liberals who preceded Dion as leader, only one – Edward Blake – had failed to become prime minister of Canada. And Blake's leadership came to an end in 1887.

Dion had just won a job that had provided a surefire ticket to the Prime Minister's Office for almost 12 decades straight.



Alan Echenberg

The delegates seemed as united as could be expected after a dramatic, emotion-laden convention that saw Dion go from fourth to first place over two days and four ballots.

He had come into the convention with the estimated support of about 15 per cent of the delegates, well behind front-runner Michael Ignatieff's 28 per cent.

But, on the final ballot, with only Dion and Ignatieff left standing, he beat the former front-runner 55 to 45 per cent.

He was a compromise candidate, sure, coming up the middle of a bitter, divisive rivalry between Ignatieff and Bob Rae. But, as they streamed out of the convention hall, most delegates seemed happy with the choice, many of them won over by Dion's fresh message of change, integrity and environmentalism. Some felt they had dodged a bullet by picking the best candidate to unite the party behind a new kind of politics and a new, greener vision of Liberalism.

My hard-bitten acquaintance in the

crowded hallway wasn't buying any of it. He had come to the convention as a Rae supporter, and was departing it shaking his head, unmoved by the victory of the bookish Dion.

"The Liberals," he said to me moments after I offered my greetings, "just had their Joe Clark moment."

Almost two years later, the comparison has proven apt. Dion, like Clark three decades earlier when he won the Progressive Conservative leadership, had few allies in his party, won the leadership by default when more charismatic and prominent rivals failed to earn enough delegate trust, and promptly developed a reputation as an honourable-but-bumbling leader with big ideas but few political smarts to implement them.

After leading his party in last month's federal election to one of the worst electoral defeats in its history, and then reluctantly announcing he was stepping down from the leadership, Dion has joined Edward Blake as the answer to a political trivia question:

Who were the only two Liberal leaders who failed to become prime minister?

In his electoral campaign, Dion resembled not so much Joe Clark, but more John Tory, the Ontario PC leader who crashed and burned in last year's provincial election campaign.

Both Dion and Tory ran big policy ideas up the flagpole for voters – Tory's was public funding for non-Catholic faith-based schools and Dion's was the so-called Green Shift, which promised income tax cuts to balance out a new carbon tax that would help fight climate change – but neither leader bothered to check beforehand if members of his own party were saluting.

After Tory lost the election last year, here's what I wrote about his campaign in this space:

"Conviction does matter, of course. And yes, principles and policies also matter. But, in the absence of politics – the process by which those-who-would-lead persuade those-who-would-be-led to follow them down any particular path – conviction and policies can be as hollow as ... well ... as hollow as John Tory's campaign turned out to be."

The description fits Dion's campaign, too.

Sadly for Dion, he will not get a second chance. The political promise that won the hearts of Liberal delegates on December 2, 2006 got trumped by a deficit of political skills perceived that day by at least one clear-eyed observer in the crowd.

Alan Echenberg is *l'Oronto's* Parliamentary bureau chief.



# Obama's leading Middle East adviser to speak at Negev Dinner

By Ron Kampeas  
 Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a JTA analysis focusing on who the leading Middle East advisers were to the Barack Obama and John McCain campaigns for last

week's U.S. presidential election. The article was written in late-October. This issue of the Bulletin went to press before American voting day on November 4, so we didn't yet have the election results. However, unless all the polls were incorrect or there was a massive shift in the final two days before the election, it is likely that Obama will be the president-elect when you read this article.

Dennis Ross, who is profiled in this excerpt, will be in Ottawa on November 24 as keynote speaker at the Jewish National Fund of Ottawa Negev Dinner honoring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg. Call 613-798-2411 for information on the dinner.

Barack Obama's campaign insists that the Democratic nominee's top adviser on Israel and Iran is Dennis Ross, who played a lead role in peace talks during the first Bush (senior) and Clinton presidencies. Ross



Dennis Ross, Barack Obama's chief Middle East adviser, will speak at the Negev Dinner.  
 (Photo: Washington Institute for Near East Policy)

is now at the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he is joined by a staff that has leaned more toward neo-conservatism – and Republicans – than he has. Ross's position at the institute is a testament to his ability to cross the aisle – an approach that is in sync with Obama's insistence that he will be a bipartisan president.

Ross is widely respected in the Jewish community, but has been criticized in more conservative circles for what critics say was his

failure to hold Yasser Arafat accountable for failing to live up to Palestinian commitments.

In his 2004 book, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*, Ross made it eminently clear that at times he found former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be untrustworthy. But Ross also has insisted that the United States and Israel should have done more to hold the Palestinians to their agreements – and has consistently blamed Arafat for the

failure to reach a final settlement at the end of the Clinton administration.

Ross has criticized the Bush administration for not being engaged enough in peace talks – but also for announcing unrealistic goals for achieving a two-state solution.

By contrast, he told JTA, an Obama administration would play a more hands-on role in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking – but also steer clear of any "artificial" timelines. He says the creation of a Palestinian state is impossible so long as

Hamas controls Gaza.

For these reasons, Ross has suggested, Obama's emphasis would be more on Iran. Ross is one of the principle architects of Obama's Iran policy: engagement induced through tough sanctions. His laundry list of possible new sanctions aimed at getting Iran to stand down from its suspected nuclear weapons program – the re-insurance industry, refined petrol exporters, central bank – echoes exactly those of Israel and the pro-Israel lobby.



Dan Greenberg and Barbara Crook are this year's honorees at the Jewish National Fund of Ottawa Negev Dinner being held Monday, November 24 at the Museum of Civilization.

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**Ottawa JNF 2008 Negev Dinner honouring  
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The 2008 Ottawa Negev Dinner on November 24 at the Museum of Civilization is now almost sold out, thanks to the dedicated work of our campaign chairs led by Ron Prehogan and all of our JNF volunteers. Our fundraising campaign is a success thanks to the generous support of the Ottawa Jewish community and the entire Ottawa business community. The evening promises to be a splendid event, topped off by the well-deserved recognition of this year's Honourees, Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg.

Dan and Barbara are well known and widely admired in the Ottawa community for their enthusiastic and active involvement and for their outstanding personal and financial support of a wide range of community organizations and institutions in the arts, health care and sports. They have given much to Israel and to our community and their generosity and leadership is setting new standards for Ottawa.

Our Honourees have shown the same personal care and attention they give all of their commitments in their selection of the 2008 JNF Negev Dinner project in Israel. The Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg Reservoir at Mishmar HaYarden, located north of Lake Kinneret, is vitally needed to help address the drought that has thrown Israel into its most severe water crisis since independence in 1948. Their choice is a true reflection of their love and understanding of the State of Israel and the needs of its population.

This year, JNF is also marking the important milestone of Israel's 60th year as an independent State. We are very pleased to welcome our keynote speaker for the evening, Ambassador Dennis Ross, a man who is uniquely qualified, through his extensive diplomatic, academic and political activities, to inform and enlighten us about the current situation of Israel and its neighbours. His current role as a key Middle East adviser to Senator Barack Obama will mean this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn about what lies ahead for the entire region.

The Dinner looks like it will be sold out again this year, but some tickets are still available. Please RSVP your invitation by mail or call our office at the above number as soon as possible to be sure you can join us for what promises to be a very special evening.

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## Experience of being different informs the writing of acclaimed new author

By Michael Regenstreif

Once, author Rebecca Rosenblum's acclaimed first book of short stories, is filled with the kind of characters – students, office workers, waitresses, labourers, street hustlers, etc. in their 20s – that you'd only encounter in urban settings. So, it's surprising to hear her say she grew up in Mount Hope, Ontario, a small farming community near Hamilton.

"I was usually the only Jewish kid in my school," she told the *Bulletin* while in town for a featured appearance at Library and Archives Canada during the Ottawa International Writers Festival last month.

"There was another Jewish family that lived down the road, but their daughter was older.

"My Jewishness does not inform my writing a great deal," Rosenblum said, "but that experience of being something other than what everybody else was really does. No one was ever mean, but, every Christmas, we had to have a day where I had to go the front of the room and explain what Chanukah is because the teachers didn't know."

Being set apart by the uniqueness of being Jewish in her school, Rosenblum believes; helped give her the tools she needs to create and develop unique characters who are of the urban landscape, but set apart from the mainstream.

Rosenblum, 30, left Mount Hope at 19 for Montreal where she studied



Author Rebecca Rosenblum is enjoying critical acclaim for *Once*, her first collection of short stories.

(Photo: Dave Starrett)

English and creative writing at McGill.

She then moved to Toronto, earning a certificate in publishing from Ryerson and an MA in English and creative writing from the University of Toronto.

She now works in Toronto as a text book editor by day and fiction

writer by night.

Over the past several years, Rosenblum took her observations from riding Toronto buses, sitting in restaurants and walking down city streets and turned them into rich short stories. Her then-unpublished manuscript of 16 stories won her the prestigious Metcalf-Rooke Award in 2007. In addition to a prize of \$1,500, the award also included publication of the book this fall.

In selecting her for the award, noted authors John Metcalf and Leon Rooke wrote: "Rebecca Rosenblum's first story collection was an exciting experience for us. She has succeeded brilliantly in creating new and involving shapes for her stories.

"She sees the world through a prism absolutely hers. Her dialogue is flawlessly performed. And the characters and lives she presents us with are bleakly fascinating. Her hustlers and students and waitresses, her adolescents, her ineffectual fathers – all inhabit precisely observed worlds."

Rosenblum is clearly enjoying the response to her first book. The early reviews have been uniformly strong and she's in demand at authors' festivals and other literary events. Last week, she was one of the authors featured in the *Cool Jews Cabaret* during Toronto's annual Jewish Book Fair.

Rosenblum is also a busy blogger. Her musings on various topics can be accessed at [rebecca-rosenblum.blogspot.com](http://rebecca-rosenblum.blogspot.com).

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Congratulations to Chuck Merovitz on a job well done by Dodie and Bram Potechin and family

## Bar Mitzvah celebrant twinned with boy who died in the Holocaust

By Liana Shlien

On October 25, Ian Jason-Byerley shared his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Israel with another young Jewish boy who never had the chance to celebrate his own. Steffen Wreschner, a Dutch Holocaust victim, was twinned with Ian in a special memorial program.

As part of its Names Recovery Campaign, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem operates a twinning program to remember the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust before reaching Bar or Bat Mitzvah age. The idea is to "remember the person specifically, not just as a number," Ian told the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

It was his grandfather, Marvin Jason, who thought of the idea, said Ian. "My poppy thought it was the appropriate thing to do."

Ian's grandmother is a Holocaust survivor, and a few of the Bar Mitzvah guests also lived through that era, he said, so incorporating a Holocaust commemoration was "nice for relatives."

His mother, Nina Jason added, "These are the occasions that make you remember."

"Lots of people do this in Toronto," Ian said, through a program offered by the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, though his mother noted that "it hasn't caught on in Ottawa."

An e-mail was sent to Yad Vashem requesting the name of a child who shared Ian's birthday of December 2. Steffen (1934-1945) was the first of many children whose names came up.

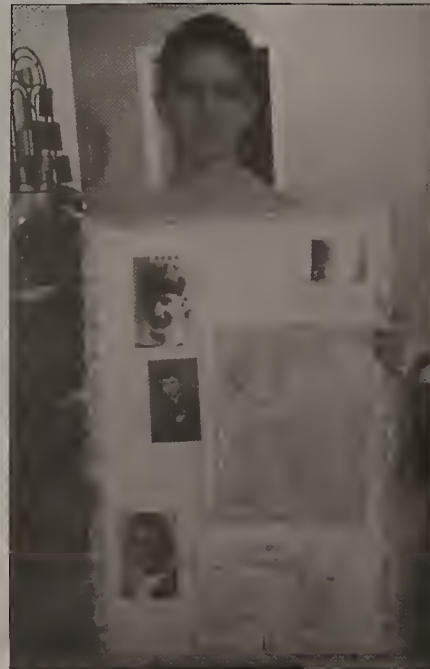
Margrit Wreschner Rustow, Steffen's aunt, was "completely speechless" and "absolutely thrilled," said Nina, when she first called about twinning Steffen.

Rustow, 83, who resides in New York City, came to Ottawa to attend the Bar Mitzvah and speak about her late nephew, who was only 10 years her junior.

Ian prepared a poster that included photos of Steffen and a map tracing his family's path of migration and deportation.

For his *D'var Torah*, Ian read a quote from his Torah portion, and then began telling his twin's story.

Steffen Wreschner was born in 1934 to an Orthodox Jewish family in Amsterdam and was "treated like a prince," as the only boy among two other siblings. He lived close to his relatives, like his aunt Margrit, who took walks with him and would fre-



**Ian Jason-Byerley holds a poster including photos of Steffen Wreschner, his Bar Mitzvah twin, and a certificate from Yad Vashem acknowledging that Ian shared his Bar Mitzvah with Steffen, who died in the Holocaust.**

(OJB photo: Liana Shlien)

quently come for Shabbat dinners. He was described as a sensitive child with a strong conviction for justice.

Steffen's father had moved his family to Amsterdam, where he found work in a metal factory, from Frankfurt, Germany, after anti-Semitic regulations prevented him from practising as a lawyer there.

Inevitably, the Wreschner family was taken away by the Nazis. They had purchased South American passports before-hand so they were in a "better camp," but conditions soon deteriorated as the war drew on.

The last four years of Steffen's childhood were spent in concentration camps, first at the Westerbork holding camp in Assen, Holland and then at Bergen-Belsen in Germany, where he died of scarlet fever, a month before the end of the war, at age 10. Steffen was the first of his family to die. His parents and siblings died shortly after the war of camp-related illnesses.

Ian learned about the Holocaust at Hebrew school, but said this experience has deepened his understanding of it.

"Before, it was just numbers. Now I've researched this person, I know his story. I've talked to his living relative."

Information about the Yad Vashem Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning program is available at [tinyurl.com/5no243](http://tinyurl.com/5no243).

Donation cards can be purchased for a minimum charge of \$12.00 by contacting the Tamir office at 613-725-3519, 11 Nadolny Sachs Private, Suite 218, Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 1R9, or by e-mail to [aalmstedt@tamir.ca](mailto:aalmstedt@tamir.ca)





Rambam students have settled into their new classrooms in the Hillel Academy building.  
(Photo: Nicola Hamer)

## Rambam now on campus with Hillel Academy; YRHS coming soon

By Nicola Hamer

Hillel Academy communications director

Jewish education in Ottawa is being transformed. Hillel Academy, the largest day school, has been facing declining numbers of students over the past few years. So, too, have other Jewish schools.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the school administrators decided it must be a priority to revitalize Jewish education and stop this decline.

At the same time as Hillel was beginning to look for ways to revitalize itself, Yitzhak Rabin High School (YRHS) was looking for a way to move closer to the Jewish Community Campus.

Last spring, the two boards decided that moving the high school into the same campus building as Hillel would allow the two schools to share resources in an unprecedented way.

Plans were made to renovate the school to accommodate the high school. At the same time, Rambam, a Chabad elementary day school, was also looking for a new space. They agreed to use part of the basement level of the school building.

So, in a remarkable move, the three schools worked out a plan to share space in one building.

The renovations began immediately. One wing of the basement was completely reworked to accommodate Rambam. Despite being in the basement, it is a bright and open space, and Rambam's students have settled in nicely since moving into their new space in early October. Rambam's principal, Rabbi Yehoshua Botnick, says the space is "ideal for creating a high-quality day school."

The other half of the basement is also being completely overhauled. It will have a state-of-the-art science lab and a new staff room for the teachers of all the schools. The area is almost ready for occupation, which will clear out the second floor wing YRHS

will be using, for the final leg of the renovations. Those will be finished in December so the high school can move in during the winter break and the students can begin the second term in their new space.

When the dust settles, YRHS and Rambam will be in new locations, designed exactly to their specifications, and Hillel will have a new science lab and staff room. The two elementary schools will share the science lab, gym, computer lab and library. Hillel and YRHS will share administrative staff and some programming.

Sharing resources is a financially-wise move that will allow the teachers of the schools to have joint professional development and will see them working together to improve the delivery of Jewish education to a wider cross-section of the Jewish community. Because the teachers are sharing a staff room, they will find more opportunities to speak to other Jewish educators about different teaching practices.

The staffs of Rambam and Hillel have already found the experience of sharing a building to be surprisingly positive. Teachers from both schools admit to having been nervous about the move, but each school has gone out of its way to accommodate the other. As Rabbi Botnick says, "Of course, we expected to be tolerated when we moved here. What we did not expect was such an incredibly warm welcome. The staff at Hillel has done everything they can to help us settle in."

We believe it is important to have choices in the Jewish education parents can find for their children. But variety does not mean that different educational institutions shouldn't work together to ensure that they are each providing the best education possible for their students. The way these three schools are coming together proves that co-operation is possible and that we can help each other in providing our students with the best we have to offer.

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## Volunteer spotlight

## OMJS bids farewell to long-time volunteer

By Benita Siemiatycki

What do you get when you combine a Jewish mother, a social activist and the Energizer bunny? The answer is Marlene Rivier, who is most known as a labour leader, and who was the New Democratic Party candidate in Ottawa-West Nepean in the recent federal election.

Less well known is her long-term leadership and volunteer commitment to Ottawa Modern Jewish School (OMJS), which her three children attended. This past June marked her retirement from the OMJS Board of Directors, which she joined in 1999. She served as president from 2000 to 2006 and her last two years on the board were as an active past president, even though her youngest child graduated in 2006.

Raised in Ottawa, Marlene and her sisters are OMJS alumni themselves. She feels a strong affiliation to the school because, "for many of our families, we are the only link to the Jewish



Volunteering enables one to live their life in a way that's consistent with their values, says Marlene Rivier.

(OJB Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

community. For some, our school becomes a portal and people involve themselves in other activities within the community, or join shuls, or

whatever. We feel our role is very unique. And, without OMJS, we would lose an important portal for people who are not affiliated to the community."

Early in Marlene's presidency, the school experienced a sharp drop in enrolment, forcing the school to examine what it was doing right and wrong. She led a strategic planning exercise that helped put into place new mechanisms that were effective in increasing enrolment. Those strategies are still being used today.

One major decision the board made under Marlene's leadership was to eliminate the Wednesday classes and offer a Sunday-only program, largely due to low attendance on Wednesdays. That change required alterations to the curriculum.

"If people aren't signing up, you have to be responsive to what people want," Marlene believes.

Professionally, Marlene is a psychological associate at the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre. Not one to sit still, it's her community activism that draws Marlene to causes that "come ultimately from my personal philosophy and my approach to the therapy work I do."

"I describe myself as a narrative therapist. I look at people within their social, cultural and political contexts. Often the problems they have grow out of some of the conditions in which they live. I need to speak out on these issues that affect so many people and are such a detriment to their quality of life."

These beliefs have led Marlene to be chair, since 2006, of the Ottawa Health Coalition which represents the public interest in issues pertaining to health care. Previously, she headed up People for Public Hospitals, which was concerned with the privatization of hospitals,

and fought against the private/public partnership planned for the Royal Ottawa Hospital. In 1996, she organized the health professionals at the Royal Ottawa joining the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and currently sits on the executive of the Ottawa and District Labour Council. She has also volunteered over many years for anti-poverty and environmental groups.

Volunteering is one way, Marlene believes, for people to enhance their skill sets. For instance, the skills she learned during the strategic planning exercise at OMJS and through organizing focus groups for other projects has benefited her in other areas of her life. She also derives great satisfaction from the work she does.

"Volunteering is very satisfying and enables you to live your life in a way that's consistent with your values," she says. "The interaction you have is very gratifying."

You meet wonderful people. That is very enriching."

The Jewish imperative of *Tikkun Olam* lies beneath much of her work, she says.

"I feel I have an obligation to engage in *Tikkun Olam* on their [her children's] behalf. So that the world they're in is an increasingly healthy and better world."

Two of Marlene's children attend university in Ottawa, and the youngest is in high school. She stresses that, although she welcomes their volunteerism if they choose to, "I feel strongly that my children need to make their own choices and not feel compelled to join my causes."

Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information.



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## What's happening at Congregation Beth Shalom

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday, November 17   | Book Club                           |
| Sunday, November 23   | Street Smarts Program/Reptiles Rock |
| Saturday, November 29 | Saturday Night Fever Dance          |
| Thursday, December 4  | Kibitz Club Luncheon                |
| Friday, December 5    | Kabalat Shabbat Service and Dinner  |
| Sunday, December 14   | Mad Science Hanukkah Event          |

**Watch for more upcoming events. Everyone is Welcome!**

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## Goldblum resurrects controversial Holocaust survivor

By Naomi Pfefferman  
Jewish Journal  
of Greater Los Angeles

In order to play the lead in *Adam Resurrected*, Jeff Goldblum said he spent "months crying and crawling around on all fours."

In the movie – adapted from Yoram Kaniuk's controversial 1969 novel – Goldblum portrays a

German circus clown who survives the Holocaust by entertaining his concentration camp's commandant: specifically by pretending to be a dog and even sharing a pen with the officer's German shepherd. The fictional Adam Stein also proves useful by serenading Jews on his violin as they march to the gas chambers.

After the war, the character is suave and sexually voracious (albeit with a sadistic streak), but eventually suffers a mental breakdown. He begins to heal only when he bonds with an abused boy in a rehabilitation hospital in Israel.

While the film has received mixed reviews, critics have so far

praised Goldblum for what many are calling a "tour de force" performance.

Director Paul Schrader has said that Goldblum was the only actor he ever had in mind for the role, due to the performer's ability to simultaneously radiate vulnerability and a cavalier, almost glib charm.

Goldblum has demonstrated these qualities in the roles that have made him iconic in the popular culture: a genius who morphs into an insect in David Cronenberg's *The Fly*; a geeky Jewish cable guy who saves the world in *Independence Day*; and a mathematician with the charisma of a rock star in *Jurassic Park*.

Although he has not made a blockbuster since the 1990s, Goldblum said he has been content with his smaller film and theatre roles, recently earning stellar reviews for his turn in David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* in London and has just replaced Chris Noth on television's *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*.

"What's the word from the Passover seder? Dayenu – if nothing else happened it would be enough," he said.

Several years ago, the script of *Adam Resurrected* arrived at his Hollywood Hills home.

"I was quickly, entirely, wildly mesmerized," he recalled of his first reading. "The character is so complicated and contradictory, full

of towering grief and rage and poetry and majesty. And the story, of course, is moving and provocative and disturbing."

Goldblum read and reread Kaniuk's stream-of-consciousness novel – which was among the first to depict the Holocaust and its aftermath with biting sarcasm – with some trepidation.

"The Holocaust is delicate, hallowed ground, so, yes, I felt nervous about the subject matter and was aware of some of the pitfalls," he said, stammering and pausing in his idiosyncratic way. "A lifetime is not enough to really understand or know the events, so I spent a year immersing myself in the era."

Goldblum visited the Museum of Tolerance, spent a month in Germany to perfect his character's accent and interviewed survivors in Berlin and in Los Angeles at Cafe Europa, a support group at the Westside Jewish Community Center. At six-foot-four, he towered over the elderly Jews with whom he talked and danced at a Purim party.

He visited the Majdanek concentration camp, where he peered into the gas chamber, and he spoke frequently to author Kaniuk, who laughed when the actor said he was taking violin lessons for the role.

"He said I had better learn to bark like a dog," Goldblum recalled. The actor promptly emitted "yips and yaps" into the receiver – but he took the author's advice seriously, going so far as to meet with Cesar Milan, of "The Dog Whisperer," and to "spend time with German shepherds."

Lest one think this was overkill, he pointed out that his character loses virtually everything in the Holocaust – not only his family and his circus, but also his very humanity.

"Paul (Schrader) describes the film as a story about a man who was once a dog, who meets a dog who was once a boy," Goldblum said.

The 55-year-old actor is as renowned among directors for his background research as he is for his quirky, awkward but charming repartee. He spoke to the *Journal* from his *Law & Order* dressing room in Manhattan, where he was studying a new script on his day off. When Goldblum made *The Fly*, he reportedly caught a fly in a bag in order to observe its habits.

Goldblum said he received only a "smattering" of Holocaust educa-

(Continued on page 15)

### Sound of the shofar heard at Merivale High



Student Ethan Calof blows the shofar at a Rosh Hashanah gathering of the Merivale High School Jewish Culture Club.  
(Photo: Irv Osterer)



### Jewish students meet with Allan Rock

A delegation from Hillel Ottawa and the Chabad Student Network met with Allan Rock, the newly installed president of the University of Ottawa, on October 27. Among the items discussed was the fact that the Jewish students share Rock's vision of community, the protection of Jewish students on campus and kosher food services for students.

Pictured (left to right): Mark Friedman, president of University of Ottawa Hillel; Adam Berkin, president of Chabad Student Network; Rabbi Dovid Hayes; Allan Rock; Rabbi Chaim Boyarsky, director of Chabad Student Network; Yocheved Boyarsky; Rachel Guy Levine, president of Jewish Law Student's Association; and Alana Kayfet, executive director of Hillel Ottawa. (Photo: Peter Waiser)



# Goldblum wanted to get a feel for the real thing

(Continued from page 14)  
tion while growing up the son of a physician in suburban Philadelphia. He attended an Orthodox synagogue where he became Bar Mitzvah.

Goldblum said he lost no relatives in the Holocaust, although an uncle he closely resembles was a pilot who was shot down and killed in the Second World War. The actor, too, has experienced his share of losses, including the deaths of his father in 1983 and a brother, Rick, who succumbed to a virus contracted in North Africa when Jeff was 19.

By that time, Goldblum had been performing piano professionally for five years, finagling gigs by telephoning numbers listed under "cocktail lounges" in the directory. He studied acting with the legendary Sanford Meisner and landed the role of a rapist in 1974's *Death Wish*.

*The Big Chill* proved to be his big break in 1983.

But *Adam Resurrected*, so far, has proved to be his biggest challenge as an actor.

Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum was impressed when he met with Goldblum to talk about survivors and the Nazi era.

"It was quite stunning how seriously he prepared," Berenbaum said. "He wanted to get the feel and tension of the character and to enter his inner world."

"And he read every book I gave him, from Elie Wiesel's, *The Town Beyond the Wall*, which deals with how a man used his madness to heal from existential despair, to Victor Frankel's ideas about the aftermath of the Holocaust – that for some, liberation came much later than the physical liberation."

"I also remember him down on his hands and knees as a dog – Jeff Goldblum in his Hollywood Hills home as a damn dog. He had lost a lot of weight for the movie, and I was struck by how tall and thin he was."

"I wanted to get as much a feel for the real thing as I could," Goldblum explained. "I just hope I was worthy enough for the role."



Jeff Goldblum performs as a circus clown who survives the Holocaust by entertaining his concentration camp's commandant.

*Adam Resurrected* was screened this past weekend at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles and in September at the Toronto International Film Festival. Wide release is expected soon.



## New Israeli ambassador to speak at Agudath Israel

Israel's new ambassador to Canada, Miriam Ziv, will be the keynote speaker at the second in a series of Shabbat dinners being hosted by Agudath Israel Congregation. The event, which features a Middle Eastern menu, takes place on Friday, November 21 at Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue.

A career diplomat, Ziv enjoyed a four year posting as vice-consul to the Israeli Consulate in Toronto in the 1970s. The ambassador is seen here with Governor General Michaëlle Jean after presenting her credentials on September 15 at Rideau Hall.

Kabbalat Shabbat services begin at 4:05 pm. Dinner will follow at 6 pm. The cost for the dinner, which must be paid in advance, is \$35 (adults), \$25 (students) \$20 children six-12; children under six attend free. Reservations must be made by November 18. The community is invited to attend. RSVP to the shul office at 613-728-3501. Only those with paid reservations will be admitted to the dinner.

(Photo: MOP Jean François-Néron, Rideau Hall)



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# Author Michael Petrou to discuss Canadians in the Spanish Civil War

By Rostyn Brozovsky Wollock  
SJCC Adult Program Manager

The Canadian government passed the Foreign Enlistment Act in April 1937 outlawing participation by Canadians in foreign wars.

Yet, more than 1,600 Canadian volunteers defied this law and formed the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion – the Mac-Paps – to fight with the XV International Brigade on behalf of the democratically elected, Republican government of Spain in the Spanish Civil War.

In a prelude of what was to come in the Second World War, the Spanish Republicans were facing the fascist forces of General Francisco Franco who were backed by Hitler's Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Fascist Italy.

In his newly released book, *Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War*, author Michael Petrou explains who those renegade volunteers were and what drove them to aid in the Spanish war effort.

Petrou, a senior writer at *Maclean's Magazine*, will be in Ottawa to discuss his book at the Soloway Jewish Com-



Michael Petrou explains what drove the Mac-Paps to aid in the Spanish war effort.

munity Centre (SJCC) on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 pm.

More than 400 Canadians were killed in the Spanish Civil War. How did those brave men and women live and

die in Spain? And how did the Canadian government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police react to their decision to join another country's war?

In answering those and other questions, Petrou has drawn on previously secret archival material that has been declassified in recent years and conducted interviews with Canadian surviving members of the Mac-Paps. He also visited the Spanish battlefields in researching this account of Canadian participation in the Spanish Civil War.

Historian Jack Granatstein has described *Renegades* as "the best and most complete account of Canadians in Spain we are ever likely to get."

Most of the Spanish Civil War volunteers came from poor immigrant communities and a disproportionate number of them were Jewish. Petrou will talk about and read from sections of *Renegades* focusing on those Jewish individuals in his talk at the SJCC.

If you're interested in Canadian history, the Spanish Civil War or the fascinating battle between democracy and totalitarianism in the 1930s, this book talk is one you'll want to attend.

# Judge upholds order to revoke citizenship

(JTA/Ottawa Jewish Bulletin) A Federal Court of Canada judge upheld an order to revoke the citizenship of a man who lied about working with a Nazi death squad during the Second World War.

On October 27, the court rejected Helmut Oberlander's claim that the federal government was wrong to find that he had been complicit in atrocities committed by the Nazi Einsatzkommando unit with which he had worked as an interpreter.

Oberlander, who immigrated to Canada in 1954 and became a citizen in 1960, argued he was forced to work with Nazi forces

that invaded his native Ukraine because he was fluent in German and Russian.

Throughout his case, which stretches back a decade, Oberlander argued that the only factor motivating the Canadian government to strip of him of citizenship was suspicion of complicity.

However, Judge Michael Phelan ruled that was good enough because the death squad unit was a "mobile mass killing squad."

The court added that, while Oberlander may have led a quiet life in Canada, the real issue was that he had concealed his involvement in a Nazi death squad in order to illegally gain

Canadian citizenship.

Both Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) were quick to applaud the court ruling.

"Oberlander's presence in this country has been a continued insult to the privilege of Canadian citizenship," said Keith Landy, chair of the War Criminals Committee of CJC.

"There can be no further delays in stripping Oberlander of his Canadian citizenship, which should be fol-

lowed by his immediate deportation from this country," added Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of BBC.

"Canada must demonstrate that it will not allow itself to be a safe haven for those complicit in Nazi-era atrocities or modern-day war crimes."

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## Panel shows need for Israel advocacy on campus

It may not have all the drama of York or Concordia, but Carleton University is certainly no stranger to anti-Israel activities on its campus.

Last month, the university sent out an e-mail to all students, staff and faculty, promoting an upcoming talk called *Israeli Crimes, Canadian Complicity – A Panel Discussion with Al-Haq Human Rights Workers from the Occupied West Bank*.

The message began: "Israel has officially launched a public relations campaign to 'rebrand' its image, and is piloting this campaign on Canadian soil. The image Israel wants the world to see is at odds with the daily reality faced by millions of Palestinians living under military occupation ..."

Hillel Ottawa, the Jewish student association, took immediate action and the university administration promptly issued a clarification stating that the message did not represent an official position.

The evening of October 23 rolled around and, despite a few security vehicles outside, the event generated less controversy than anticipated – but was it ever crowded. More than 200 people filled the seats and spilled over onto the steps in the Azrieli Theatre.

The sponsors for the panel were Carleton's Human Rights Program, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), Independent Jewish Voices, and Not in Our Name: Jewish Voices Opposing Zionism, all of which had information tables outside.

John Osborne, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, introduced the event by noting that he had never before received "such an avalanche of e-mails," most of which requested that the event be cancelled or substantially modified. He went on to stress the necessity of free speech in a university setting.

The panel consisted of two human rights workers from Al-Haq, a West-Bank-based organization touring Canada to raise awareness of legal issues and human rights in the Palestinian territories.

They repeatedly claimed that Israel was violating international law through the displacement of Palestinians via



### Campus Life

Liana Shlien

"illegal" Israeli settlement in the West Bank, which they said denies Palestinians their right to self-determination.

The building of Canada Park, a recreational area west of Jerusalem, was cited as the example of "Canadian complicity." The 7,500-acre park was established in 1973 with Jewish National Fund of Canada money, and the panelists said the tax exemptions for those donations meant the Canadian government was complicit in crimes because the land in question formerly contained three Palestinian

villages destroyed after the 1967 war.

After the two speakers were finished, the audience was allowed one-minute questions.

Raphael Szajnfarber, Hillel Ottawa's city-wide president, as well as a few others from Hillel and the new Israel Awareness Committee (IAC), spoke up, calling attention to the complete one-sidedness of the forum.

In response, a spokesperson for SAIA said "you can't speak of balance when the situation there is so not balanced," to prolonged applause from the audience.

Events such as this highlight the real need for an Israel advocacy group on campus. The IAC, whose aim is "bringing about awareness of the many contributions that Israel and Israelis alike have given to society," recently set up its new executive and co-hosted a free Israeli Mini Film Festival last week at Carleton University.

Also, on both university campuses, Hillel Ottawa hosted a series of events between October 30 and November 7 to mark Holocaust Education Week.



## Judaic Outreach Programs

**November - December 2008**

Adele Horwitz, Judaic Program Leader • 613-592-8365

Alison Caplan, Judaic Administrative Assistant • 613-725-3519

Date	Program	Place	Time
Wednesdays Nov 4, 11, 18, 25	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45 – 6:45
Wednesdays Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45 – 7:45
Thursdays Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15 – 7:15
Thursdays Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00 – 5:00
Thursdays Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00-5:30
Friday November 7	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Tamir Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30 – 7:30
Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45 – 6:45
Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45 – 7:45
Thursdays Dec. 4, 11, 18	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15 – 7:15
Thursdays Dec. 4, 11, 18	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00 – 5:00
Thursdays Dec. 4, 11, 18	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00-5:30
Sunday December 7	JCC Mitzvah Day Contact Alison Caplan	Soloway JCC	TBD
Friday December 12	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Tamir Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30 – 7:30
Monday Dec. 22	Tamir Family Chanukah Party RSVP Alison Caplan by Dec. 15	Agudath Israel 1400 Coldrey	6:00 – 8:00

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### Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership.

The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters.

The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits.

Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9; or send him an e-mail at [mregestreif@ottawajewishbulletin.com](mailto:mregestreif@ottawajewishbulletin.com).



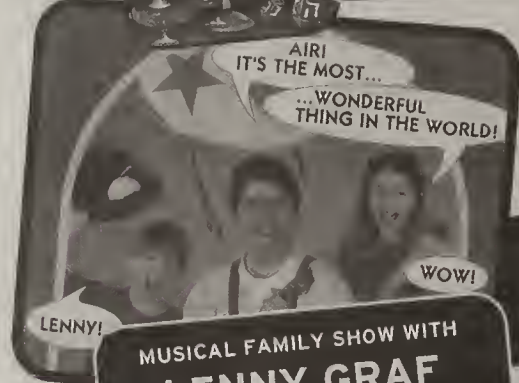
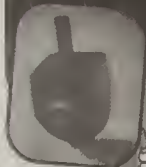
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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008**  
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## CHANNUKAH SOCK DRIVE

Imagine wearing cold, wet socks day after day; now imagine how you would feel getting a pair of clean, dry socks! Each night StreetSmarts staff and volunteers hand out over 50 pairs of socks to Ottawa's homeless as a way to make connections and let our homeless community know we care. During the Channukah Gift Fair we will be collecting socks. Come by the JFS table, drop off a pair of socks and share the warmth of the season.



**MUSICAL FAMILY SHOW WITH LENNY GRAF**  
11:00 AM • \$5/CHILD

**BOOK REVIEW BY DR. HENRI HABIB JERUSALEM 1913**  
BY AMY DOCKSER MARCUS  
2:00 PM • \$5/PERSON

the book is available for purchase in advance at the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Programs Centre



A Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist examines the genesis of one of the greatest political struggles of our time. Searching for the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, historians for years focused on the British Mandate period (1920 - 1948). Amy Dockser Marcus; however, demonstrates that the bloody struggle for power actually started much earlier, while Jerusalem was still part of the Ottoman Empire when the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism laid the groundwork for the battles that would continue to rage nearly a century later.

For more information please e-mail [pnamer@jccottawa.com](mailto:pnamer@jccottawa.com) or call 613-798-9818 ext. 243  
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## THE GREENBERG FAMILIES LIBRARY PRESENTS

Mayer Kirshenblatt & Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, "They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust".

Winner of the 2008 J.I. Segal Jewish Book Award

Illustrated lecture and author talk with artist Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies at New York University

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10**  
7:30PM • SOLOWAY JCC

Mayer Kirshenblatt, who was born in 1916 and left Poland for Canada in 1934, taught himself to paint at age 73. Since then, he has made it his mission to remember the Polish-Jewish world of his childhood in living colour, "lest future generations know more about how Jews died than how they lived."



## JEWISH BOOK MONTH

Book Talk with Michael Petrou, Senior writer with MacLeans magazine. Michael will discuss his book

*"Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War"*

Even though it was illegal to do so, over 1600 Canadians fought in the Spanish Civil War - among them a disproportionate number of Jews. Find out why and how this came to be.

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Roslyn Brozovsky Wollock  
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**No admission charge.**

For information contact Maxine Miska  
at 613-798-9818 ext. 263 or [mmiska@jccottawa.com](mailto:mmiska@jccottawa.com)



# SOLOWAY JCC SUNDAY AFTERNOON SKI AND SNOW BOARDING CLUB 2009

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Bus Returns 4.45 pm to the Soloway JCC

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For more information please call Jon Braun at 613-798-9818 ext. 267 or [jbrown@jccottawa.com](mailto:jbrown@jccottawa.com)

# WINTER BREAK CAMP



Vacation time is a fun time, and that is exactly what this camp offers. Enjoy indoor and out door activities, games, crafts, science, videos, swimming, field trips, and more. Please send a nut free and pareve lunch.

Monday Dec. 22	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Tuesday Dec. 23	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Wednesday Dec. 24	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (no after-care)
Monday Dec. 29	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Tuesday Dec. 30	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Wednesday Dec. 31	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (no after-care)
Friday Jan. 2	8:30 am to 3:00 pm (no after-care)

Kindergarten - Grade 6	\$35 M/day \$50NM/day
	\$30 M/day (additional child)
	\$45 NM/day (additional child)

## SUPERSITTERS

This class is offered in conjunction with St. Johns Ambulance and serves to prepare future baby sitters for the challenges of looking after children. The material covered includes safety, conflict resolution, and emergency procedures. Participants will be expected to participate in both theory and practical elements and successfully complete a final test covering both areas to receive their certificate.

Monday December 29 • 9:00am - 4:00pm • \$65 M / \$85 NM • Ages 11 + • Instructor: St. Johns Ambulance (minimum of 10 participants needed per class)



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### TAMIR

Tamir is in need of volunteers to assist with participant activities, special events and clerical duties. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.tamir.ca/> or contact 613-725-3519.

#### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Can YOU make the difference?

If so, contact Lisa Bogdanov, Volunteer Coordinator of the Thelma Steinman Seniors Support Services unit: 613-722-2225, ext. 327 or [Lbogdanov@jfsottawa.com](mailto:Lbogdanov@jfsottawa.com).

- A disabled woman who lives downtown needs help with paperwork approximately 2-3 times per month for 1-2 hours.
- An elderly woman who lives in the Byward Market area needs a friendly visitor to share coffee visits, trips to museums, art galleries, etc. Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.
- An elderly lady who likes crafts & sewing would love to meet someone with similar interests to help her get out of the house once in a while.
- A gentleman who enjoys long walks and Torah study could use an occasional companion. Campus area.
- **Transportation:** Drivers are always needed to transport seniors to and from medical appointments, social opportunities, grocery shopping, and the like
- **Kosher Meals on Wheels:** Drivers who can deliver on short notice are always at a premium, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Friendly Visiting:** Requests come in constantly from family members needing a visitor for a shut-in. Weekly, bi-weekly or ad-hoc opportunities are waiting to be filled by someone with a little time and a lot of heart. Chat over coffee, take in a show, go bowling... the opportunities are only as limited as your imagination.
- **TeleShalom:** We are currently seeking volunteers to place weekday morning reassurance calls to isolated seniors. Each call takes approximately 2-3 minutes and can be done from your home, office or cell phone.
- **Presenters:** JFS hosts several monthly seniors' luncheon programs. We are always on the lookout for specialists, artists, musicians, and others who can present for about 45 minutes in exchange for a hot lunch in great company.
- **Share Your Expertise:** From time to time, we receive requests for things like filling out forms, putting up a Sukkah, changing dishes for Passover, and the like. If you have an expertise to share with someone in need, please let us know.
- **Miriam's Well:** This monthly distribution program needs helpers to pack and hand out fresh fruits and vegetables on the 1st Monday of every month.

Please Note: Mileage incurred by volunteers is always reimbursed by JFS.

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- Interested in medicine, nursing, therapies, hospitality? The list goes on and on. Come help out at Hillel Lodge!
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- **Love computers?** Teach our residents a great skill. Flexible timing. Contact us!
- **Student special:** Your gain is our gain! Do your community hours helping our residents! Daily or weekly, at a time that suits you! University students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment).
- **Special nitzvah anyone?** Bring a resident to Shabbos services (Saturdays at 9:15 am) and enjoy the fantastic Oneg with friends. Great cholent!
- **Newly retired?** Put Hillel Lodge volunteering in your plan! Residents welcome visitors, program assistance, all kinds of options. Pick a day, a time of day, a type of event – whatever suits your schedule. Try it out now!
- **Thirsty?** Serve drinks to residents every day at 11:30 am. A half hour gets you lots of smiles.
- **Free on Fridays?** Oneg Shabbat every week at 10:30 am and bingo at 2:00 pm – come join us.
- **Culture maven?** Accompany our residents to museums, concerts and plays (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons).
- **Tuesday special:** Enjoy our special events every week at 2:15 pm.
- **Shopping experts?** Have fun while accompanying residents to shopping at a mall (Monday mornings).

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3910 ext. 191 or email [judithw@hillel-lt.com](mailto:judithw@hillel-lt.com)

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

## Facebook meets Fiddler on the Roof

### Values, Ethics, Community



Mira Sucharov

My friends and family, including my four-year-old daughter, know that I'm a Facebook addict. Now, no addiction is good as far as it goes, but I'd like to make the case for why I'd like you to join Facebook, if you haven't already.

Facebook, the social networking site created by a Harvard University student in 2004 for his classmates, and now open to the world, boasts more than 100 million users. That's five times as many as when I signed up two years ago. At that time, I discovered 10 people I knew on the site, one of which was the son of my summer camp cook – a boy I knew at eight years old who is now a university graduate in his 20s. The others were my younger cousins. Two years later, I have more than 400 Facebook friends ranging in age from 13 to 89 – a total number that rises as I add colleagues or cousins or old student-council schoolmates, and falls if people's postings become too sophomoric or otherwise offensive to my sensibilities.

Now, most people know that Facebook is an effective tool for reconnecting with old classmates, and being able to display one's evolved, post-high-school self. But what I think is a less-discussed aspect of the site is the sense of traditional community it fosters. And, for this columnist, who desires a more global village in this disconnected postmodern world of ours, a bit more sense of community, where people keep track of one another, is a good thing.

Long before the telecommunications revolution, people congregated in the town square, sharing personal news and events from farther afield. Recall the scene in *Fiddler on the Roof* where a group of villagers, one wielding a Russian newspaper, tells Tevye about nearby pogroms. Since the rise of what Benedict Anderson has called "imagined communities" created through the invention of the printing press, more people had access to the news, and generations of kids were able to afford a record collection by delivering the morning paper to people's breakfast tables.

But then the technology revolution happened, coupled with the rise of the automobile and the creation of suburbs, and people now converged at work but spent their leisure hours at home. Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone* catalogues the decline of communal recreational activities and the subsequent atrophy of civic identity. Add to that family obligations keeping people with kids at home or in the car – driving older children to their activities – and fewer people have time to socialize in person with their friends.

Enter faxes, cell phones, e-mail and then Facebook which, at first, was meant to tie undergraduates to each other and create more community in what is sometimes an alienating first-time-away-from-home campus experience. Broadened to in-

clude the world-at-large, Facebook became a tool for sharing perceptions and personas, and cultivating artistic and intellectual outlets.

My almost-brother-in-law is a talented recreational photographer whose photographs I would otherwise rarely see, hesitant as he would be to send them directly because of the potential hubris that would be implied. But, when I log on to my home feed on Facebook, I see his postings replete with a discussion of the technical process leading to his inspiring creations. And I comment and ask for more.

My husband and a distant cousin of mine in California trade urgent political missives on Facebook, remarkable since they had only previously met for 30 seconds at a family wedding and probably would not have recognized each other on the street. These are relationships that existed in the abstract, but are now made more tangible through wall postings, inbox messages and photo comments.

Facebook is good-natured. People are positive and supportive and excited to help you rejoice in the larger personal transformations or small acts of meaning with which we try to infuse our lives. Mention a self-help group and spark a conversation with someone who might never have had the wherewithal to inquire. Build a sukkah and decorate it with fabric flowers and twinkle lights, post a photo on Facebook and people will help you celebrate those daily bits of joyfulness that make you want to get up in the morning. Showcase your leafy lettuce and rosy stalks of rhubarb to friends across the country as you may have at the local country fair before we all moved around for jobs and other economic opportunities. A virtual installation of creative expression will have been mounted. Post that you're heartbroken and others will ask why.

In this age of iPods and YouTube – private listening and viewing experiences – coupled with economic alienation and political disengagement, a bit more community, connection, and simple recognition of each other's existence can only serve us well. So come to the virtual town square that is Facebook and be welcomed for who you are.

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# Fleischman's dark tale is a must-read, must-own book

*The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*  
By Sid Fleischman  
Greenwillow Books 2007  
192 pages. Ages 9-14.



## Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman



By Sid Fleischman

World War Europe in 1948 when Freddie the Great, a third-rate ventriloquist who moves his lips and isn't especially funny, finds someone hiding in the closet of his hotel room. Short, pithy punch lines become the dialogue between Freddie and the polite but determined dybbuk who is about to possess him.

By the end of the first chapter, the tone of their relationship is established, though Freddie doesn't know it yet. Which leads to a question readers will ask themselves again and again: Who is really the dummy? Is it the wooden puppet Freddie made as a prisoner of war? Is it Freddie himself? Is it everyone?

And what does the dybbuk want of Freddie? Indeed, why did the dybbuk specifically choose Freddie to be his partner in completing his unfinished business? Layers and layers of reality and fiction blend together with consummate skill as Fleischman's characters wisecrack their way to self-revelation, romance and success for Freddie, and an amazing true-to character finale for the sharp-tongued, quick-witted dybbuk.

Along the way, readers also get a taste of anti-Semitism in the United States, Freddie's unsettled feelings when he's mistaken for a Jew, the kinds of chicanery used by Nazis after the war to hide their true identities, the devastation of post-Second-World War Europe, and the slow rebuilding of some of its Jewish communities.

Written in 21 short, easy-to-read chapters, with more than enough hilarious repartee, *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk* is, quite simply, a must-read, must-own book. I'm seldom that categorical about my recommendations, but for this one, I'm making an exception. *Yasher Koach*, Sid Fleischman! What a *mensch*!

Note: I'm sure many of you read Barbara Julian's

article, *Kid-lit, unlabelled: Writers urge publisher not to specify age groups on children's books*, in the September 28 issue of the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Although, as a guideline, I specify age groups in my reviews, the point of the article is one I've made many times. Know the reader. Know his or her reading ability, interests, likes and dislikes and choose books accordingly. That's good advice for every aged reader, adults included.

In recent years, a few authors and filmmakers have been doing what once would have been unthinkable. They have added humour to their arsenal of techniques used in Holocaust storytelling. Perhaps they subconsciously felt what Newbery Medal-winning author Sid Fleischman put in writing. "The Jewish sense of humour miraculously survived the Holocaust." In effect, he is saying that is why it is OK to use humour in Holocaust stories.

Fleischman's latest book, *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*, is dedicated to the memory of the million and a half Jewish children purposefully, viciously and wantonly slaughtered by the Nazis during the Second World War. Telling that story without the relief provided by black humour would have been too horrendous for mentally strong adults, let alone young readers.

And so I have no problem describing *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk* as an exceptionally funny, hard-to-put-down, gut-wrenching book. It gives a whole new meaning to a cliché popular in my youth: "I laughed until I cried." For Fleischman, that means mission accomplished. Thanks to him, I and every other reader of *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk* will never forget those million and a half Jewish children.

What's a 'dybbuk'?

When I was being an especially unruly kid, my mother would put her hands on her hips and yell, "Stop being such a dybbuk!"

Believe it or not, she was attributing my mischievous behaviour to my being possessed by a wandering spirit who had unfinished business here on earth. Jewish folklore and mythology are chock-a-block with such beings. My mother, a superstitious woman, accepted them.

For the purpose of this book, readers will also have to accept dybbuks. To be precise, they'll have to accept one dybbuk. The feisty, smart-assed spirit of "not yet thirteen years old" Avrom Amos Poliakov, shot six times by the infamous Jewish child hunter and murderer, SS Colonel Gerhard Junker-Strupp.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. The details of Avrom's death and the deaths of his sister, Sulka, and other Jewish children gradually emerge at different stages in the book.

*The Entertainer and the Dybbuk* begins in post-Second

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OTTAWA

WARD

A C A



# Butternut and spaghetti squash are easily found

There are an impressive number of squash varieties available. Today, I'll focus on the two varieties most easily

## Spaghetti Squash and Tomato Sauce

Serves 6

The inspiration for this recipe came from Bob Blumer, the *Surreal Gourmet* on the Food Network. Here is a way to have spaghetti in a low carb way.

- 2 spaghetti squash (each about 3 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 1/4 - 1/2 teaspoon chili pepper flakes
- 28-ounce can Italian plum tomatoes
- 15 large basil leaves, finely sliced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parnigiano-Reggiano cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Halve and seed squashes. In a large baking dish, add 1/4 inch of water and place squash, cut side down in dish. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake for about 45 minutes, until squash is tender when forked.

While squash is baking, prepare tomato sauce. In a sauté pan, over medium heat, add oil, garlic, shallots and chili flakes. Cook for about 2 minutes. Open can of tomatoes. Pour contents into large bowl. Squish with hands until tomatoes are broken down into smaller pieces. Add squished tomatoes and juice to sauté pan. Increase heat to high and cook sauce until it begins to thicken, about 10 more minutes. Take off the heat, stir in basil and taste to see if additional salt and pepper are needed. Set sauce aside.

When squash is cooked, use a fork to scoop flesh away from the skin and separate the strands.

In a sauté pan over medium high heat, add butter, oil and garlic. Stir for 1 minute. Add squash and sauté for about 3 minutes, tossing to ensure that all the strands get coated with garlic and oil. Season lightly with salt and pepper.

Transfer squash to serving platter. Top with tomato sauce and sprinkle with cheese. Serve.

found in the supermarket, butternut and spaghetti squash.

Spaghetti squash is a small, watermelon-shaped variety, ranging in size from two to five pounds. It has a golden-yellow, oval rind and a mild, nutlike flavour. Raw, the flesh is solid and similar to other raw squash. Cooked, the flesh falls away from the fruit in ribbons or strands like spaghetti. If you have never prepared spaghetti squash, the transformation is quite amazing. Kids especially think it's really cool. The yellowiest spaghetti squash will be the ripest and best to eat. Those that are nearly white are not very ripe.

Butternut squash is shaped like a large pear with smooth skin and a slightly orange-cream colour. Green skin is an

## Butternut Squash Fries with Chili Salt and Maple Cream

Serves 4

This recipe comes from the October 2008 issue of *Everyday with Rachael Ray*. This recipe calls for chili powder. Instead of using generic supermarket powder, try a varietal chili powder. There are more than 15 different varieties to choose from at [chillychiles.com](http://chillychiles.com). I love ancho chili powder. It is mildly hot and slightly sweet with hints of plum and raisin. Chilly Cbiles is located in Navan, about 25 minutes from downtown Ottawa. Their shipping rates are very reasonable.

- 1 butternut squash, about 2 pounds, halved lengthwise, seeded and peeled
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/4-1/2 teaspoon chili powder (see note above)
- 2 limes, cut into wedges

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Cut squash into 1/2-inch wide sticks, about 3 inches long. In a large bowl, toss the squash with olive oil. Spread the squash fries in a single layer on a foil- or parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet and roast until golden and tender when pierced with a knife, about 35 minutes.

While fries are baking, stir together sour cream and maple syrup in a small bowl. Refrigerate until serving time. In a second small bowl, stir together salt, cumin and chili powder.

When fries are done, sprinkle lightly with seasoned salt and serve with maple cream, remaining seasoned salt and lime wedges on the side.

## Made with Love

Cindy Feingold



indication that the squash is not ripe. Butternut squash is best when it measures eight to 12 inches long and four inches wide. The flesh of the butternut is slightly sweet and a very deep orange, which indicates high carotene content. Cutting a whole butternut squash can be a bit scary. The skin is hard and the shape is a bit awkward. When you lay it on the cutting board it rolls around, making it unstable and not so safe to cut. I came across an excellent video on YouTube that demystifies cutting butternut squash. You can see it at [tinyurl.com/6f9d6b](http://tinyurl.com/6f9d6b).

## Butternut Squash Soup with Cumin and Coriander

Serves 4-6

This recipe comes from *Fine Cooking Magazine* (Dinner party issue, 2008).

- 1 butternut squash, about 2 pounds
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, more for roasting squash
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 5 cups vegetable or chicken stock

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment or foil.

Cut squash in half lengthwise. Use a small spoon to scoop out seeds and scrape out the strings from the hollow. Rub the cut surfaces with a little oil, season generously with salt and pepper, and roast on the prepared baking sheet, cut side up, until deeply browned and very tender, about 80-90 minutes. Let cool slightly.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a heavy soup pot set over medium heat. Add the onion and 1/2 teaspoon salt and sauté for 2 minutes and then cover pot and let sweat until translucent, about 3 minutes. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions begin to brown, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the cumin and coriander and cook, stirring, until very fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in the tomatoes and their juices, season with a few grinds of pepper, and cook for 2 minutes. Cover and simmer for another 10 minutes.

Peel the roasted squash and add the flesh to the pot, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Add chicken or vegetable broth, cover and bring to a simmer. Adjust the heat to maintain a simmer and cook, covered, for 30 minutes. Let cool slightly and purée batches in a blender or food processor.

Taste and add more salt and pepper if needed. Return the soup to the pot and stir occasionally, over low heat until hot.



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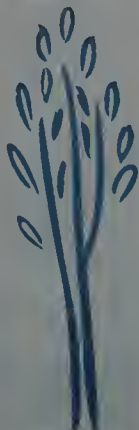
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Continued on page 24





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Continued on page 25

## Holocaust Education to benefit from Bar Mitzvah Fund

Remembering both victims and survivors of the Holocaust was an influencing and important lesson learned by Justin Wakter at Hillel Academy. So much so, that Justin chose the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of the Federation of Ottawa to be the benefactor of his B'nai Mitzvah Fund.

When Justin was asked what motivated him to open a fund he simply replied, "My Bar Mitzvah."

Throughout Justin's life, his parents, Alex and Lynda Wakter, and grandparents, Sally and Morton Taller and Rose and Imre (Z"l) Wakter, have been strong role models and advocates for building a strong Jewish community in Ottawa. Consequently, through donations made to his fund, Justin hopes to ensure that future generations continue to learn about the Holocaust and its lessons therein.

Justin also hopes to lead by example and would like to see his efforts inspire



Justin Wakter

other children his age to open a B'nai Mitzvah fund so that they too can contribute to the community and make a difference in their own way.

"Through my fund, I will have the opportunity to directly support a cause in the community that I believe in," stated Justin. The B'nai Mitzvah Club empowers kids in our community through tzedakah.

Thanks to philanthropists, Saul and the late Edna Goldfarb, who founded the Club, a B'nai Mitzvah fund can be opened with as little as \$250.

To find out more about opening a B'nai Mitzvah fund with the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, contact Francine Paulin, Foundation Associate at 613.798.4696 ext. 252 or email info@ojcf.ca.

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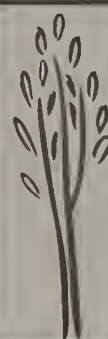
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### Drawn to the Torah:

## G-dcast reinvents the Saturday morning cartoon

By Stacey Palevsky

### Jewish News Weekly of Northern California

A San Francisco woman has launched a website that turns each week's Torah portion into a thought-provoking four-minute cartoon.

Sara Lefton, last month started *G-dcast*, an animated series available for free online.

*G-dcast* brings the Torah to life in a wholly original way. The animated series seeks to raise basic Jewish literacy among teens and adults by retelling Torah portions through animated images and diverse voices.

*G-dcast* began just in time for Simchat Torah with the story of creation as told by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, scholar-in-residence at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco. A new animated short film about each week's Torah portion will be added to the website every Monday.

A different person will narrate all 54 Torah portions. So far, Lefton has secured 15 narrators from cities such as San Francisco, New York, London and Melbourne. They are artists, rabbis, musicians and teachers; they are secular, Orthodox and everything in between.

"I was really flattered and honoured to be associated with an attempt to make Jewish learning so technologically cutting-edge," Rabbi Kushner said.

Once the narrators record the story of a Torah portion – in four minutes or less – the animator, Nick Fox-Gieg, who lives in Toronto, creates the pictures to go along with the audio portion. Some episodes will be straightforward storytelling, while others will be told as country or hip-hop songs.

Each short film comes with a curriculum guide, so that Jewish educators can use *G-dcast* to facilitate discussion in their classrooms.

"The whole point of Sarah's *G-dcast* is not to teach you the obvious things, but to open your eyes and help you find the often overlooked elements of the Torah portions," said Evan Wolkenstein, a Tanach teacher at San Francisco's Jewish Community High School of the Bay and a narrator for *G-dcast*.

Since *G-dcast* is pluralistic, Lefton hopes Orthodox as well as secular teens and adults view the videos, though her intended audience is those who do not lead much of a Jewish life.

"What I really want is the girl in the suburbs to know the story of Jacob, because this one didn't," Lefton said, pointing a finger to her chest.

Matthue Roth, an Orthodox Jew who lives in Brooklyn, is the education director for *G-dcast*. After the narrators draft their stories and Fox-Gieg creates the accompanying images, Roth designs the curriculum guides. He also works with narrators if they need help interpreting Torah portions.

"I want to show the Torah not as this dry book filled with 'thees' and 'thous,' but as a living thing full of stories we can relate to and take away something from," Roth said.

Lefton is no stranger to new Jewish ideas. She was the founder of Jewish Fashion Conspiracy, which manufactured irreverent screen-printed items such as the "Yo Semite" T-shirts and underwear that read "A great miracle happened here."

She has tabled Jewish Fashion Conspiracy to focus her energies on *G-dcast*, which she said, "is a better expression of who I am. It's serious, engaging and accessible. That's my brand."

*G-dcast* episodes and curriculum guides are available at [g-dcast.com](http://g-dcast.com).

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## The loonie and toonie could have been the goosey and loosey

If you stop to think about it – although I know most people who stop don't do so to think, but, rather, to let a train pass or because the word on the red octagonal sign tells them to – aliens from another planet might have a hard time distinguishing between an upright bear and a human. This is especially true in the winter when we seem to sprout extra layers and some even sport fur coats.

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**I'm Jerry of Jerry's Hobby Reg'd**

I invite you to stop by my table at the Chanukah Gift Fair, being held at the JCC on November 23, 2008. I would love to meet you and show you some examples of "taking memories out of a box".

For more information, I can be reached at 613-301-4919, or by e-mail at [jerryathome@sympatico.ca](mailto:jerryathome@sympatico.ca)

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To a Martian, this must all seem to be some strange moulting process where we shed our skins and then grow them again after the summer becoming fully covered by the time the snow flies. It might even seem to them that it's part of our mating pattern as members of the opposite sex seem to suddenly notice each other more in the spring when the extra layer of skin is shed.

It is not for me to say, but I am suspicious that this has something to do with a courtship and mating process that leads to babies the following spring. My advice is to be careful when you remove your coat as it may lead to dancing.

Aliens might also conclude that we here in Canada worship the Canada goose. We show them such reverence that traffic comes to a stop when a gaggle of them decides to cross the Ottawa River Parkway and take their time to waddle their way to the river.

I became aware of how appropriate the word 'gaggle' is this evening as I ran along the river on the bike path and saw the whole of Crystal Bay filled with Canada geese, squawking and honking to each other as if they were Shriners at a convention or long lost friends at a big reunion.

They occupied every square inch of the water and the din was so deafening I couldn't even hear the sound of my footsteps crunching the fallen leaves. It's almost as bad as Jews at a party. The occasional straggler came in honking to settle on the few square inches the others left them. Pity the poor ducks! There's no room for them.

The Canada goose, by the way, is our unofficial national bird. The loon is only the bird of Ontario. This makes me wonder why our dollar was called a 'loonie' when it really should have been called the 'goosey.' Instead of the 'toonies,' the two dollar coin could then have been the 'loosey.' And, if you felt like having coins instead of bills in your pocket, you could say you were interested in getting "loosey-goosey."

But this would have led to unfortunate sentences such as, "I have no change, can you give me a goose?"

When you realize that the animal on the quarter is a buck, those of us who are older would have been even more confused when told we had to pay four bucks to get a goose.

And when I stop to think about it – there I am stopping

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## Humour me, please

**Rubin Friedman**

to think again, it must be the traffic – I remember that the animal on the back of a nickel is a beaver. It is at this point that modesty prevents me from making any more jokes. I am sure the wise can see where it all leads.

Suffice it so say, the worship of animals would be seen to be as important as the worship of dead white guys and a queen, all of whom appear on our currency. Not that there's anything wrong with it.

Indeed, it is good to collect as many queens and dead white guys as possible even though it all looks like play money to both aliens and Americans, who, stopping to think about it again, are actually aliens in this country.

So, if you meet any Americans or aliens in the street, do not hesitate to explain it all to them. Just don't take any wooden nickels.



**David McGuinty**

Member of Parliament  
Ottawa South

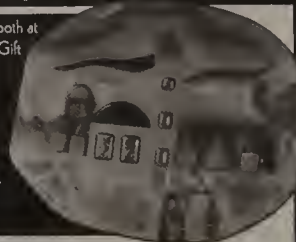
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## Jewish NHLers

Salary cap issues moved Mathieu Schneider to the Atlanta Thrashers for the 2008-09 campaign. Mike Cammalleri has a new home with the Flames with returning Calgary Hebrew Eric Nystrom. Jeff Halpern, a late-season addition to Tampa, returns to the Lightning and Mike Brown was recently recalled from the AHL Manitoba Moose to add some grit to the Canuck lineup.

Anyone looking for cardboard souvenirs of their Jewish NHL heroes should head down to the Cards, Antiques and Collectables Show at the Ottawa Civic Centre on Sunday, November 23 to see hockey card maven Steve Singer.

## Jewish AHLers

A couple of Jewish AHLers made strong impressions at NHL training camps.

Goalie Josh Tordjman – a cousin of Ottawa educators Prosper and Jacques Torjman – continues to play well with the Phoenix organization and Trevor Smith scored a pre-season overtime winner for the Islanders before being returned to Bridgeport for more seasoning. Israel National Team member Oren Eizenman, an ECHL all star last year with Fresno, had an impressive rookie camp with Vancouver and is with the Manitoba Moose.

## Bailey watch

Jason will start his professional career wearing number 18 with the ECHL Bakersfield Condors. The Condors are excited to have "Bails" in their lineup.

## Hockey royalty in Ottawa

Hockey's hat trick was immortalized by a Jewish haberdasher. The late Sammy Taft used to award a *chapeau* from his Spadina Street store to any player scoring three goals at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens. Taft's daughter is none other than Centrepointe's Rhoda Levitan.

Rhoda is still a hockey mom with son Josh playing Midget House League hockey in Nepean.

## Jewish men's hockey league

Team captains Howie Fremeth, Eric Zunder, Mo Osterer and Charles Schachnow are looking forward to another fun season of SJCC men's hockey. Catch the action every Monday night between 9 and 11 pm at the Sensplex in Kanata.

## Da da da dada

The National Hockey League has had Jewish owners, announcers, players, officials and even a Jewish commissioner. But who knew that the famous Hockey Night in Canada



theme was created by a Jewish composer? Dolores Claman was at the centre of a controversy that saw the CBC lose her celebrated hockey anthem to rival CTV/TSN.

## Stein in O-town

When Ottawa 67's goalie Adam Courchaine was injured early in the season, coach Brian Kilrea summoned Toronto native Adam Stein from the OPJHL Ajax Attack to serve as backup. Stein worked out with the team and was on the bench until Courchaine returned to the lineup in October.

## Jewish hockey down under

Montreal's Robert Starke, who played for Canada's gold medal hockey team at the 1997 Maccabiah, has played the past four years in Australia and was a member of the gold medal-winning Mighty Roos Australian National Team, in the IIHF 2008 World Division II Group B Ice Hockey Championships.

## Rubin returns

You may remember Benjamin Rubin, who was attempting to combine hockey with an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle. Rubin played with the Gatineau Olympiques through November 2007 before being released. He is back in the QMJHL with the Montreal Juniors for the 2008-09 season.

## Allen Cup winner

Former Toronto Maple Leafs hopeful Aaron Brand was a UHL and ECHL All Star before his career was cut short by a concussion. Brand returned to compete in the senior amateur ranks and was a member of the Allen Cup-winning Brantford Blast in 2008.

## World Jewish Junior Hockey tournament

Several local Jewish hopefuls took part in tryouts for the Canadian Junior Jewish National team that competes at the inaugural World Junior Jewish Hockey Championship in Israel, in July 2009. Making the first cut were forwards Eli Vered and Michael Calof, defenceman Michael Vered and goaltender Daniel Altschuller.

Nepean Junior A Raiders Shaun Altschuller and Andrew Calof are also expected to participate in the tournament.

## Hebrew house leaguers

Many Jewish youngsters are participating in regional house league hockey programs. The NMHA Pee Wee B Nepean Aces feature an all-Jewish high-scoring line of Daniel Blacher, Ariel Linton and Ariel Buchler. The boys have been playing together for two years.

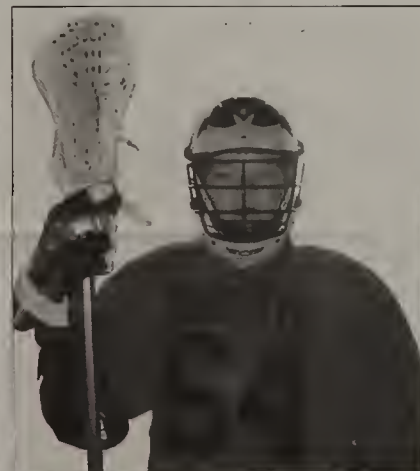
## And Jewish lacrosse too!

At five-foot-six, Andrew Pye is the tallest member on the Nepean Knights field lacrosse team.

In their inaugural season, the Knights have battled valiantly. Their main rival has been an experienced rough-and-tumble team from Akwesasne/Cornwall.

Pye's aggressive defensive play has been acknowledged by the opposition who try to steer their offence from his side of the arena. In a recent game, with the score tied at 17, Andrew rushed coast to coast with only seconds to play to score the game winner!

The 11-year-old Temple Israel Hebrew School student also tends goal for the NMNA House League B Nepean Scorpions and lists music and chess as his other favourite activities.



Andrew Pye plays lacrosse for the Nepean Knights.  
(Photo: Irv Osterer)



The Nepean Aces high-scoring line includes (from left to right): Daniel Blacher, Ariel Linton and Ariel Buchler.  
(Photo: Courtesy of Neil Blacher)

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calendar/planitjewish](http://www.jewishottawa.org/calendar/planitjewish)



### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Israeli folkdancing for adults and kids aged 10-16, learn dances and have fun, no experience or partner required, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm, kids; 7:30 pm, adults. Info: 613-722-9323.



### CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Nov 14 ☆ 4:16 pm  
Nov 21 ☆ 4:09 pm  
Nov 28 ☆ 4:05 pm  
Dec 5 ☆ 4:02 pm

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 10

"They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood before the Holocaust," illustrated lecture and author talk with artist Mayer Kirshenblatt and Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett of the Department of Performance Studies at New York University, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 263.

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11

Shoah survivor talk and documentary, part of Holocaust Education Program, Eva Olsson will talk about her experiences and launch her documentary "Stronger than Fire: The Eva Olsson Story" about her return to Hungary and retracing her journey of 1944 and 1945, Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Road, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12

11th Annual Celebrity Sports Dinner, sponsored by the SJCC, "A Tribute to Team Canada," funds raised go to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre Foundation, the Sens Foundation, Rogers House and the SJCC, Civic Centre Salons, 5:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 242.

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13

Why Children Need to Play in Order to Learn, sponsored by the SJCC, Dr. Edward Hollowell focuses on how and why "play" creates confident learners, 8:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 271.

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18

Bonnie Stern, "10 Reasons Why I love Friday Night Dinners," book launch, book-sign-

ing and brunch, 11:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 295.

Challah baking, sponsored by the Ottawa Torah Center Chabad, learn to make and braid delicious challah, daughters (aged 10+) and mothers welcome, 3:30 pm. Info: 613-823-0344.

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19

Let's do lunch, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Agudath Israel, local historian and author George Laidlaw shares his writings and thoughts, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

Book talk, sponsored by the SJCC, author Michael Petrou, senior writer for Macleans magazine, discusses his book "Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War," with a focus on chapters involving Jewish volunteers, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

Chanukah Gift Fair, sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural Centre, 10:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

"Perla: The Last of the Seven Dwarfs," documentary

featuring Perla Ovitiz, a dwarf, who was shipped to Auschwitz along with her dwarf and normal-statured siblings and who eventually settled in Israel, part of Holocaust Education Program, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

## COMING SOON

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Negev Dinner, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund of Ottawa, honouring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg with keynote speaker Ambassador Dennis Ross, special adviser to Senator Barack Obama and lead negotiator on Israeli-Palestinian issues for former U.S. presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Museum of Civilization, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-798-2411.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Mitzvah Day 08, sponsored by Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should send the information to InfoCentre coordinator Benita Slemiatycki via e-mail at [bslemiatycki@jewishottawa.com](mailto:bslemiatycki@jewishottawa.com) or fax at 613-798-4695. She can also be reached by telephone at 613-798-4644. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public.

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